



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

May 9, 2017

Mr. Bob Trent
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Mail Code 2732A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Trent,

This letter is to inform you of a new U.S. Government Accountability Office engagement on Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Actions On or Near Tribal Lands—code 102047. The enclosure provides information on the engagement. If we determine it is necessary to visit locations other than those specified in the enclosure, we will advise you.

We would appreciate your notifying the appropriate officials of this work. The next step will be to set up an entrance conference. At that meeting, we will request that your agency identify a point of contact for this engagement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfredo Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alfredo Gomez
Director, Natural Resources and Environment

Enclosure

cc: Bob Trent, Sherri Anthony, Mark Howard, Mark Gaffigan, Alfredo Gomez, Barb Patterson, Emily Norman, Andy Furillo
bc:

Enclosure

Information on New Engagement

Engagement subject: CERCLA Actions On or Near Tribal Lands

Engagement code: 102047

Source for the work: GAO is beginning this work pursuant to its authority under 31 U.S.C. § 717 after receiving a request from Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva of the House Committee on Natural Resources; former Ranking Member Raul Ruiz of the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs; Vice Chair Tom Udall of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; and 24 other individual House and Senate members.

Issue(s) under review: GAO's review will cover the following topics:

- The status of CERCLA response actions on contaminated sites on tribal lands, including what is known about the extent to which these actions have addressed the contamination;
- The extent to which tribes been consulted and engaged related to CERCLA activities on or near their land; and
- How EPA programs ensure the health and well-being of tribal members located around contaminated sites, and whether they take into account unique tribal needs such as subsistence fishing and gathering.

Agencies and anticipated locations (HQ and field) to be notified: EPA headquarters. Regional locations, if any, will be determined in the future

Other departments/agencies to be contacted:

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; U.S. Department of Energy; and U.S. Department of Defense.

Estimated start date for the work: Immediately

Time frame for holding the entrance conference: Week of May 15.

GAO Team(s) performing the engagement: Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)

GAO contacts:

Alfredo Gomez, Director, (202) 512-4101, gomezj@gao.gov
Barb Patterson, Assistant Director, (202) 512-4009, pattersonb@gao.gov
Emily Norman, Analyst-in-Charge, (404) 679-1872, normane@gao.gov